

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, March 7, 2011 – 11:00 a.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

(These minutes are not official until they have been approved by the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee.)

Members Present

James Herston, *Chairman*
Michael Haymans, *Vice Chairman*
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*
Nathaniel Cooley
Charlotte Ventola
Garland Wilson

Staff Present

Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Kelly Slaughter, Public Works
Matt Trepal, Growth Management
Roxann Read, Planner II
Elizabeth Spicer, Event Planner
Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

Members Absent

Guests

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herston called the March 7, 2011 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Herston led the members and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Roll call was taken; Secretary Grace Amodeo confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

– Add discussion about additional e-mail under Correspondence/Communications.

V. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was presented by Charlotte Ventola and seconded by Grace Amodeo to approve the Minutes of the February 7, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written. Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was presented by Grace Amodeo and seconded by Nate Cooley to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2011 Special Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Deutsch thanked the Committee members and noted he was here today to learn and offered his assistance.

VII. Public Comments – None.

VIII. Development Review Report – None.

IX. Old Business

Melbourne Street Bridge – Kelly Slaughter, Charlotte County Public Works, showed and briefly explained preliminary plans for the Melbourne Street Bridge. A copy of the presentation will be e-mailed to members. All improvements will be encompassed in a SWFWMD permit so curb and gutter must be done on both sides of street. The line items should be ready in a month or so. Construction should start in mid summer. Ms. Slaughter also showed where preliminary road closures would be during construction. An arch façade will be included in the cost of the bridge. Public Works has secured \$50,000 for landscaping around the bridge which will be done by

County staff - Greg O'Connor, Public Works - after the project has been completed. Landscaping will be simple and low maintenance. (Michael Haymans arrived at 11:11 a.m.) . Bridge plaques will be needed soon. Two should be ordered, one for each side of the bridge. Jim Herston asked that Bridge Naming be added to next month's Agenda under New Business.

Whidden Park Project Area – Debrah Forester noted that the Committee had requested that this area be identified as a priority area at the last meeting; she also received a call from a property owner of the park requesting some assistance on improving the conditions in the park. The roads within the park are below County standards and they are all private roads. Before the County would consider accepting the roads for maintenance, they would need to be brought up to County standards. One option would be to establish a MSBU to cover the cost of road improvements. Ms. Forester has requested a list of property owners and land uses from GIS. Upon receipt, she will send a copy to Public Works, Stormwater Management and Utilities so an analysis of the area may be developed. Information is being put together so recommendations may be made. There is already one property owner who is very interested in increasing access to the industrial park. Ms. Forester mentioned that this site could be considered for the Brownfield Area Designation due to an oil spill issue that has been identified.

Bayshore Live Oak Park Meeting Follow Up/Bench Project – Debrah Forester reported that she and Elizabeth Spicer visited Dearborn Street in Englewood and took pictures of the benches along that street. Ms. Spicer will take ownership of the bench project and reported the following:

- Four artists are committed to the project; she will continue looking for more.
- Three judges would probably be enough; one will be from Ringling and she suggested one person from each side of the bridge.
- Flyer and press release will invite artists to submit their sketch based on a theme and judges will adjudicate.
- September is goal for completion.
- Suggested themes: going native in Florida; in the beginning, on the frontier in Florida. Guidelines will be given artists.
- To begin 10 benches will be painted by local artists. Project could expand if successful.
- Prize for best in show.
- Suggested bench positions in the park will be forwarded to David Milligan.
- Time will be scheduled for painting benches during May and if necessary in June.

Discussion followed regarding themes. Michael Haymans mentioned that themes have already been set up in the different areas of the park and asked if those mentioned by Ms. Spicer were in line with them. Grace Amodeo suggested that more people in Charlotte Harbor and Port Charlotte have input instead of Punta Gorda. Ms. Spicer responded that the plan was to be open to all of Charlotte County, including invitations to the high schools. Ms. Spicer will bring back the details, including the themes to the Committee. It was suggested that Mr. Haymans be one of the judges.

Community Redevelopment Plan Amendment – Debrah Forester mentioned revisions to the Plan Amendment are not included in the meeting packet but a strike thru/underline version will be forwarded by email. Ms. Forester reviewed the various areas of the Charlotte Harbor CRA and asked for input on the following: should the residential area near Pinnacle be an area on its own or should it be included in Melbourne Neighborhood; and should the NBR be referred to as NBR or another name label?

Ms. Forester distributed a copy of the 2003 Charlotte Harbor Visioning Study CRA to refresh the minds of the Committee. This map will be revised to reflect recent changes to the Comprehensive Plan and new target areas. Ms. Forester requested that the Committee review the draft changes and forward any comments to her prior to the next meeting.

X. New Business

Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan Review and LDR Update Schedule and Process – Matt Trepal, Growth Management, gave a brief overview of the land development code revisions which are currently being done. This comprehensive land review will unify the land development code and the zoning code. Tables and pictures will be included. Special Districts will be addressed in a single document separate from the County Code. The existing Code was prepared in the 1980s and has been amended piece meal since then; inconsistencies exist and it is outdated. Growth Management hopes to have a draft ready for public comments by end of year. With regard to Charlotte Harbor CRA, the Code does not intend to change the design standards. This would be the first document someone would use when starting development of land. Mr. Trepal invited the members to contact him by phone at 764-4934 or by e-mail at Matthew.Trepal@charlottefl.com with comments.

Debrah Forester noted the EAR for the comp plan will begin shortly and the CRA should have input. This review will provide the Committee the opportunity to make recommendations and seek additional changes if necessary to the Comprehensive Plan designation. A settlement was reached with regard to the 2050 Plan's legal issues and it should be on the Agenda for the March 22 BCC Meeting. Since the NBR zoning code will not be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan change and the County Land Development Code change is probably six months to a year away, the Committee discussed moving forward on the NBR zoning code changes now instead of waiting for the County-wide changes. Changes to the NBR can be done through the application process. The committee decided that waiting to include them with the Growth Management project will take too long; they can later be rolled into the new Code.

A Motion was presented by Mike Haymans, seconded by Nate Cooley and unanimously approved to move forward with the already agreed upon Charlotte Harbor CRA amended changes to the Code.

2012 Work Plan Priority List – Debrah Forester noted there was no handout at this time. The plan is to focus on existing projects. This item was tabled until next month; Debrah Forester will have a list of existing projects.

Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) Grant Application – Debrah Forester noted she prepared an application for a kayaks/small boat launch and a copy was included with meeting packet. On March 10 there will be discussion at MAC; Debrah Forester will attend the meeting with a presentation. The requested grant amount will supplement CRA funds. Ms. Forester handed out the proposed budget that reflects the grant application request; if awarded the grant would pay for the cost to build 25% of the parking spaces. These spaces would be reserved for kayak and small sailboat users. Garland Wilson stated MAC gets its funds from licensing fees and these funds can be spent on boat ramps, seawalls and similar structures; if the CRA has something of this nature, funds should be requested. **A Motion was presented by Grace Amodeo, seconded by Garland Wilson and unanimously approved to support submitting the grant application for MAC funds.**

Reschedule of April 4 and May 2 Meeting Dates – Debrah Forester stated she would not be in the office on April 4 or May 2 and asked to have the Advisory Committee meetings rescheduled. It was the consensus of the Committee that the meetings could be rescheduled to April 11 and May 9. Both of these meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be held in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

2011 Annual Report – Debrah Forester reported she is preparing the 2011 Annual Report. Projects that should be included are: Lot Maintenance, Events in Park, Harborwalk, Riverwalk Partnership, Hands Across the Harbor, Residential/Commercial Rehab Grants and the New Logo.

Melbourne Bridge Plaque – Grace Amodeo suggested naming the new bridge in honor of Dick Loftus. Garland Wilson suggested it be named for a historical figure. It was requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting so that Debrah Forester can research process requirements.

XI. Correspondence/Communications – A copy of the following communications/reports were distributed.

- Southwind Request – Request received for the installation of a stop sign on Sibley between Central and Harbor. It was mentioned that Public Works had previously reviewed this request and did not think a stop sign was warranted. The consensus of Committee was to forward this request to Public Works.
- Home Repair Program – Newspaper announcement.
- Southwest Florida Regional Brownfield Meeting – members invited to attend, if interested.
- Elizabeth Spicer February Report – Elizabeth Spice handed out an updated budget.
- Levine E-mail - Mr. Haymans would like staff to look further into this issue. Public ways should be taken care of if we expect others to maintain their areas.
- Couture E-mail – It was suggested that this e-mail be forwarded to the Housing Department.

XII. Public Comments

Cassandra Wooden stated she walked down Sibley Bay and Central and witnessed speeding on both roads. She also noted she has never seen anyone pass a stop sign.

XIII. Staff Comments - None.

XIV. Attorney Comments - Attorney Rooney was not present.

Member Comments – Mike Haymans mentioned he attended the Punta Gorda CRA Meeting. The Hands Across the Harbor event was discussed and the consensus was to continue the event, and to keep the Punta Gorda CRA updated on sponsorship needs.

XV. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday, April 11, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M Knee

Kathy M. Knee, Recorder
/kmk

Approved: _____